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DC Recycles!

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...IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Mini Bin Pilot Project: *Small in Size. Big in Savings.*



Mayor Anthony Williams, DC Council Chairman Linda Cropp, Council Member-at-Large Carol Schwartz, and City

Administrator Robert Bobb, all agree that, "When you recycle, you're in good company."

That is the sentiment behind the Mini Bin Pilot Project, an innovative waste prevention program designed to enhance the current recycling efforts at the John A. Wilson Building. In the true spirit of environmental awareness, Wilson Building employees gave up their individual trashcans in return for a six-inch high desktop container called a "mini bin". Employees place their waste, including materials such as fruit peels, candy wrappers, and tissues in their mini bins. All recyclable materials as well as full

mini bins are deposited in centrally located multi-ports. Recycling containers are also located at the multi-port (pictured to the right).



The project is designed to reduce the amount of trash each employee generates while increasing the amount of recyclable materials collected. In just a few short weeks, the amount of materials – paper, glass, metal and plastic - recycled throughout the building have *tripled*. The mini bin project will go a long way towards

the District's goal of recycling more than 50% of the waste its government offices produce. Employees have been pleasantly

surprised at how easy it was to change their habits. "I thought it would be a pain to use, but I like the convenience of having my mini bin right on my desk with the multi-port right beside the office printer," said Alison Cheesman in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Operations.



Multi-port centers include receptacles for mixed paper, cans, bottles, and garbage/trash.



Message from the City Administrator



Make a New Years Resolution to Recycle!

As you know, one of my goals is for the District of Columbia to be a leader in environmental

management. We all have a role in this effort. To ensure our success, the District is making big strides to make recycling at our workplace

easier than ever. I challenge you to make recycling one of your personal goals for 2005 and consider ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. While our individual commitment may seem like a small contribution, it is only through our collective efforts that we can get there and meet the recycling resolution!

Robert C. Bobb
Deputy Mayor/City Administrator

Did you know...

In the U.S., we throw away enough office and writing paper annually to build a wall 12 feet high stretching from Los Angeles to New York City. That's about 40 million tons of paper that could be recycled.

Rethink. Reduce. Reuse. And then... Recycle.

We encourage you to join the effort to reduce the amount of waste produced in the District.

RETHINK your actions:

The things we do each day have an impact on the environment: the waste we generate; the water we use; the products we buy; and the energy we consume. Think of new ways to use and reuse common items and you'll discover new possibilities for source (waste) reduction and recycling. Changing habits is the key.

REDUCE your waste:

Participate in waste prevention by reducing the amount you consume and throw away. Try to reduce the number of products you buy and use that have unnecessary packaging.

REUSE as much as possible

Consider purchasing reusable products and refillable containers instead of disposable items. Try to maintain and repair durable products.

...And then ...RECYCLE

After you've done all you can to avoid waste, recycle. Producing goods from recycled materials typically consumes less energy and conserves raw materials.



Tips for easy ways to Rethink, Reduce, and Reuse, ...before you Recycle:

- ✓ Send as much information as you can electronically.
- ✓ Print and copy on both sides of the paper.
- ✓ Reuse printed paper as scrap paper for notes.
- ✓ Reuse bags, containers, and other items.
- ✓ Borrow, rent, or share items you don't use often.
- ✓ Bring your lunch to work in reusable containers.
- ✓ Use a reusable beverage container during the day.
- ✓ Buy products made from recycled material.

What's The District Government Doing About Toner Cartridges?

Used print and toner cartridges are a growing problem with 375 million cartridges being thrown away each year! It takes about 3 quarts of oil to produce each new toner cartridge and over 1,000 years for that toner cartridge to decompose in a landfill. So what are *WE* doing about this problem?

District Government agencies can purchase remanufactured toner cartridges and receive rebates for recycling used cartridges thanks to the efforts of the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP). Agencies are matched up with participating

contractors who provide remanufactured cartridges and collect the used ones. To find out which contractor your agency is assigned to, visit the OCP website at www.ocp.in.dc.gov.

A medium sized business uses about 900 to 1,600 ink and toner cartridges per year. By reusing and recycling toner cartridges the District Government has joined in the effort to save our environment and is saving money in the process.



District Recycling Coordinators' Corner



Pictured Above: An EPA employee answers questions concerning common area recycling collection centers. District recycling coordinators visit other buildings throughout the city to identify best practices that they can bring back to their facilities.

The next Recycling Coordinators' meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd at 10 a.m. at 441 - 4th Street, NW, Room 1117.